

# Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/19/2020 03:35 PM	Education Working Group	Meredith Owens	Reopen NC
04/19/2020 07:23 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Amber Beckler	Please continue the stay at home order through May 30th .  Thank you, Amber and John Beckler
04/19/2020 10:50 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Heather Howell	It is time for the state to stop acting like it controls our rights. These are God-given and our Constitution protects us from any government trying to infringe upon them. The shelter in place order violates our rights to gather to petition redress of our grievances and our religious rights to assemble. The state has no right to deem the work of thousand upon thousands to be "nonessential". Rather than look at shelter in place orders and extending them, why not protect life and livelihoods?! Since the data shows we have flattened the curve, have no shortage of beds, entire hospital systems working at 40-50%, it is time to reopen! To not do so speaks volumes about the desire to continue to exert power without respect to the oath sworn to uphold our Constitution and the citizens' rights.
04/20/2020 12:54 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs Pamela Little	As a retired educator and counselor, I appreciate how NC closed colleges and public schools to protect lives. A dormitory on any campus is like a Petri dish should even one person bring in the Covid 19 virus. Lives would definitely be compromised and lost in such close situations. I think NC really needs to consider whether to open for fall semester and give science a chance to find solutions. Young people today are comfortable with computer/distance learning and can manage as can college teachers. As for K-12 public schools, there is definitely no safe reason to open schools for the remainder of this school year. It will not be safe for anyone. Think about an adult teacher each day facing 20+ children all coming in from different homes. It is a catastrophe waiting to happen. Forget testing this year. Not even ACT or The College Board are testing until at least September. Teachers can pretest in the fall to find any deficiencies. I have grandchildren who while missing the socialization are doing quite well working with their teachers in 10th, 4th and 2nd grades through online and paper assignments. Their teachers have truly risen to the challenge! I am also proud how communities all over NC have come together to feed children who need nutrition from school. In times such as these, the State is at its best protecting the lives of students and all those in our precious learning institutions.
04/20/2020 01:58 AM	Education Working Group	Ms Connie Raper	Our state North Carolina needs Medicaid for our residents.
04/20/2020 07:42 AM	Education Working Group	4132371945 Stephanie Brown	We need broadband throughout the state.  Please repeal SESSION LAW 2011-84 HOUSE BILL 129 AN ACT TO PROTECT JOBS AND INVESTMENT BY REGULATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE BUSINESS. This "limits the ability of local municipal governments to set up their own high-speed internet service. The law spared cable companies from having to compete with municipal systems that could deliver the same

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			high-speed internet access at a lower price." <a href="https://www.newsobserver.com/latest-news/article210366074.html">https://www.newsobserver.com/latest-news/article210366074.html</a>
			Internet should be treated as a public utility and should be available to ALL in North Carolina.
04/20/2020 07:47 AM	Education Working Group	Mr. Peter Herrmann	We need to open up NC now before it is too late. The numbers are trending down, now is the time.
04/20/2020 08:31 AM	Education Working Group	Jamie Van Houten	Please re-open NC now!
04/20/2020 10:04 AM	Education Working Group	Kathy Lancaster	Please get our economy back going again!! My husband and I are seniors, 68 and 70. We believe in personal responsibility, in taking precautions, and in doing what we can to build up our immune systems. 2 of our children are in the Raleigh area, both families out of work due to this shutdown. Unemployment and poverty will cause more problems than this virus!!! Please open things up so they can go back to work and give their families some sense of well-being. Keeping things shut down is NOT the right thing to do!!!
04/20/2020 10:24 AM	Education Working Group	Dr. SELAINE NIEDEL	The right to vote, our democracy and free-fair elections are at stake and should be available to all North Carolinians. It should NOT be made optional because we cannot get to the voting locations in person. A vote by MAIL needs to be instituted and made operational before November 2020 in order to enable all the opportunity to vote. Please, vote to fund this important legislation, to develop ballots with stamped return envelopes to mail to all voters in the state of North Carolina.
04/20/2020 10:35 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Lisa Johnson	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing out of concern for my family and friends of our beautiful state. I am a wife and mother of 2 children, a small business owner, and resident of Wake County. Both the health and the well-being of my fellow Americans are as important to me as are their individual freedoms.</p> <p>The good news is, the original goal of flattening the curve in order to prevent strain on our community resources and health care system has been successful. It is time to take a common sense approach to return our sense of liberty and safety back to our community by empowering us to make educated decisions and enabling us to make good choices that are easily implemented at the community level. Small changes will restore some liberties. It is time to restore our liberty and ability as Americans to make our own choices. In 2017, when more than 600,000 Americans died of heart disease, no one told Americans that they can no longer elect to eat red meat or that if they did so that their choice would overwhelm the hospital system and resources.</p> <p>It does not have to be an all or nothing approach.</p> <p>There should be more discussion from NC leadership about proper hand hygiene and ways to decrease cross contamination. This could be supported by recommending hand sanitizer and wipes to be made readily available at entrances and exits of all churches, restaurants, and businesses. Ask the people to be responsible citizens and to help sanitize items (carts, tables, chairs) and areas they use by wiping them down themselves before</p>

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			<p>and after use.</p> <p>Allow businesses to open and ask them to make their own safety measures to be able to do so. Give the businesses a choice if they would like to open. Ask them when possible to limit numbers inside their own establishments. Help them with signage and proper hand sanitation. Continue to encourage their online businesses if customers are not yet comfortable or are potentially at risk. Customers can choose whether or not they want to patronize businesses online or in person.</p> <p>Speaking of at-risk populations. Perhaps consider voluntary furloughs for the at-risk group and provide funds for them to stay home for now--they know who they are. This would be a considerably lower number of people to provide unemployment benefits for. Give folks a choice to protect themselves.</p> <p>We need to be able to exercise our right to vote at the polls. I would suggest early voting to provide more opportunities for residents to vote without crowds. Voting booths could be more spaced out and contain hand sanitizer at each booth. Perhaps tents could be set up outside regular voting places to create an ability to space out even more. There could be alternating voting days for even and odd addresses in an attempt to reduce crowding further.</p> <p>Allow restaurants to open, but ask them to reduce the number of inside tables so they are 6 ft apart and use every other booth. Give them hand sanitizer and wipes at their doors. Allow outside open air seating, while continuing to support takeout and delivery. Perhaps encourage the use of something like Open Table to make reservations and decrease walk ins and table waiting times. Ask them to have patrons wait for tables in their cars and use a texting system through their cell phones when tables were ready. Give them a choice, let the restaurants and the patrons of the restaurants decide.</p> <p>Ask churches to increase the number of weekly services or masses if possible, so families are not all crowded in together at one time, but have options to attend at other times. They could consider Sign Up Genius for filling up allowable slots for available times as to help limit the number of people attending. They could use email and social media apps such as Flocknote to communicate with their congregations. Offer suggestions and guidance, but ultimately allow churches and their congregation to decide. Provide them with hand sanitizer and wipes available for members to wipe down their seating areas before and after service/mass.</p> <p>Openly and frequently discuss coughing and sneezing techniques into the elbow and recommend face coverings. Ask the citizens to crowdsource mask making and face coverings to help those who cannot make their own. Churches are always ready to help their community.</p> <p>Also, open up the parks. There is no reason that folks cannot hike or be outside on walking trails. Just encourage people to use good hygiene practices. The more parks that are open potentially decreases the likelihood of crowding. Point out smaller state parks that are less known to people. For example, everyone knows about Umstead Park, but do people</p>

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			<p>know about Lake Crabtree or other small hiking trails? High traffic to popular areas can be diverted by pointing out other places to go.</p> <p>Open the beaches and ask people to continue to be cognizant of proximity to others. In other words, go out, but keep social distancing and be a thoughtful, considerate, responsible citizen and clean up/ sanitize after yourself.</p> <p>Love thy neighbor by being mindful of space and proximity. Launch a campaign that discusses this frequently. People want to help, we want to feel like we have some say and some control over our own liberty and lives.</p> <p>Currently, living under a regime of fear is not healthy or more beneficial. Quite frankly, it makes me feel like a child that has just been grounded under penalty of fines, arrest, or hypothetical death sentence. No American wants to live in a police state. Government needs to empower their citizens, not punish them or make them feel more helpless and more afraid. Punishment is not protection. Fear prevents sound, logical decisions from being made. Hope gives people something to look forward to. We need our ability to have some control over our own lives restored. Help empower your citizens with a supportive, community, common sense approach.</p> <p>Thank you for your time! Lisa Johnson</p>
04/20/2020 11:39 AM	Education Working Group	Jennifer O'Neal	<p>Thank you for your hard work on the behalf of our community! I am writing to express my hope that you will each determine to uphold Constitutional Rights, Human Rights and rights of Medical Freedom for all of us, yourselves included, as you seek ways to move forward. The covid-19 virus has not proven to be the threat that it initially posed and there is no reason for tyrannical response to be enforced in response. I know I am not alone when I state that I will not support forced vaccination, continued restrictive closures or any other actions that violate our rights. I hope that we can trust you to uphold our rights and find solutions to this crisis within reasonable means. Again, thank you for your time and commitment.</p>